Bus Crisis - Only The Union Makes Sense

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

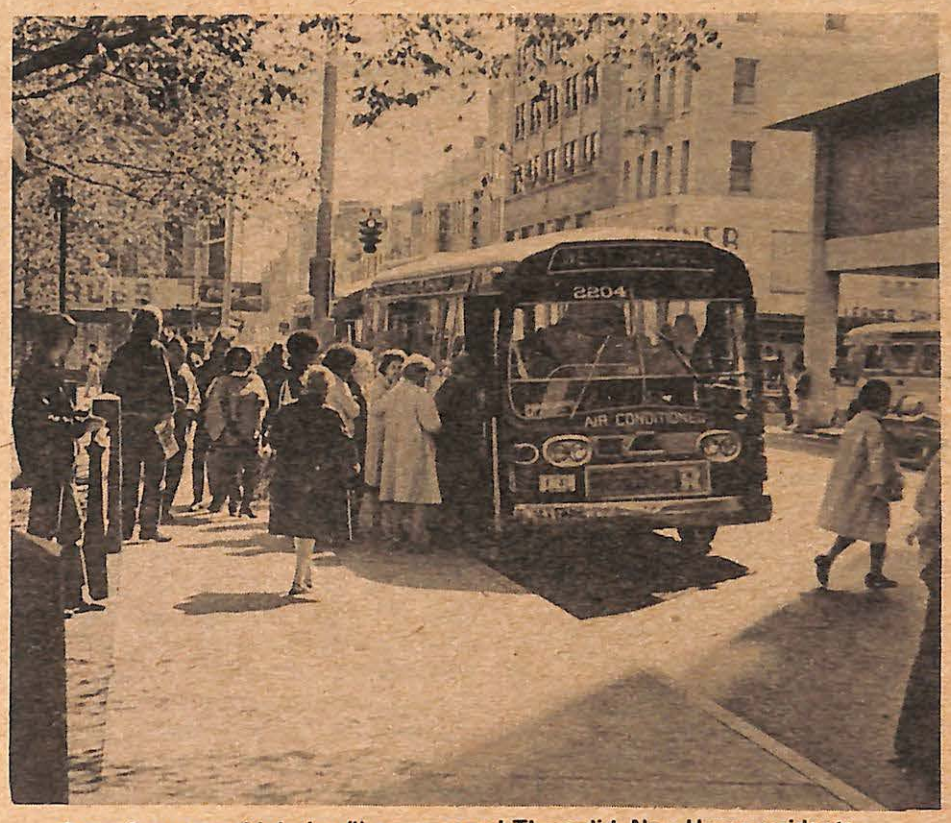
Whatever the outcome of the most recent in a series of "bus crises," one thing has become clear: the only group in Connecticut fighting for the public interest is the Amalgamated Transit Union which represents Connecticut bus drivers.

The Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) has been campaigning for years for a state takeover of the bus lines. The union claims that transportation is a public service and not a profit-making business. In order to adjust service needs on a statewide basis a state takeover (with Federal assistance) is necessary.

News Analysis

All other parties to the bus crisis seem to want to put a few patches on until the next crisis arrives. The current situation was "declared a crisis" on September 14 by Governor Meskill.

The Connecticut Company, owned by E. Clayton Gengras, claimed that the only offer it could make for a new contract with bus drivers was a 48 cents per hour wage cut. The contract expiration date was September 30 and it was clear that the ATU would not accept such a wage offer and would probably strike. Millionaire Gengras continued to plead poverty.



Sometimes you think they'll never come! These did. New Haven residents board a Connecticut Company bus on Chapel Street.
(MT photo by Vittorio Comisso)

Token Proposal

Meskill called a special session of the General Assembly to pass legislation to get some money to the bus companies. Meskill proposed that three million dollars from the Highway Maintenance fund be distributed to the 169 Connecticut towns.

A few towns could get together and pool this "highway money" to subsidize or take over the bus lines in their area. Three million dollars doesn't begin to cover the costs of a bus system. Connecticut cities can barely support their public school systems, much less a public transportation system. Most mayors, including Guida of New Haven, violently objected to this plan.

The response of the Democrat-controlled General Assembly was to add six million dollars from the Public Service

See BUS TAKE-OVER page 7

MODERN TIMES

10¢

COMPLIMENTARY

"What you do is news!"

Call 562-2510

Vol.III No.10 — New Haven — October 1-14, 1972

McG CANVASSERS COVER CITY

by Lynne Karsten and Nina Adams
Modern Times Staff

Has a McGovern representative been to your house yet? If you live in New Haven, there will be one soon. That's the goal of the canvassing operation in full swing out of the McGovern For President Headquarters, 135 Orange Street.

The coordinator of this canvassing project is Stan Greenberg. He's been involved in politics in Cheshire where he now lives; in congressional campaigns in Indiana, as well as the Robert Kennedy primary campaign. *Modern Times* asked him what he thought about the canvass.

"The canvass is really a beautiful part of the campaign. You really gain a sense of neighborhood sentiment, well before the polls come out. During a canvass, talking to people you get a sense of achievement, while it is hard to know what has been accomplished in other aspects of the campaign."

"What is the purpose of the canvass?"

Above all else, the purpose is to persuade. Canvassing, door to door, talking about issues is the cutting edge of the McGovern campaign. This is crucial, this personal approach. We're not going to win with the media or with endorsements.

"What kinds of responses have you been getting?"

The responses have really been very encouraging. We've actually found very few people for Nixon so far in our canvassing of Fair Haven--even Democrats supposedly favoring Nixon are beginning to waiver. Some people have not heard of McGovern. No one has been hostile--we find that people really want to talk about the campaign.

One difference between the Republicans and our campaign is that we spend time talking to people and listening to them. The Republicans approach people through the media and *tell* them they are happy.

"Do you think that Democrats are defecting to Nixon?"

I think that by election day there will be very few Democrats willing to see another four years of Nixon. I haven't seen the ads for Nixon suggesting that Democrats put country above party, but I think Nixon is never above his party or above his wealthy contributors. The canvass is helping to bring this out.

"What are some of the details of this canvassing?"

This canvass will continue until election day. Our goal is to meet everyone in the city of New Haven twice. We had 40 people out canvassing last week? we'll have 100 this weekend? we'll have 200 by the first week of

See McGOVERN, page 3

Eleanor McGovern Visits City

Ms Eleanor McGovern was enthusiastically greeted by students when she visited Conte School in New Haven on September 27, 1972. Later she answered questions for newspeople outside the school.
(MT photo by Nick Heyer)

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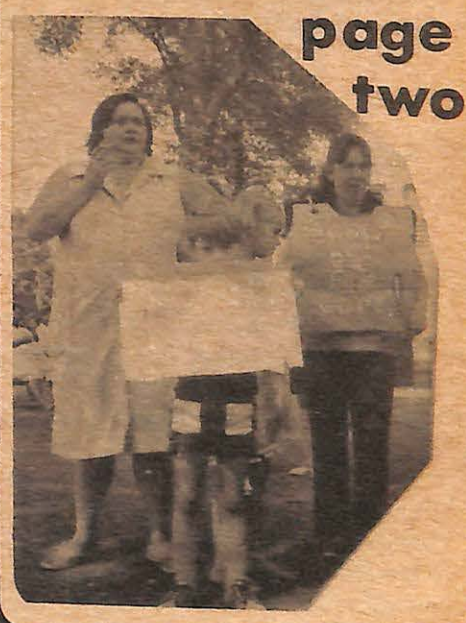


MOMS To Rally Against Flat Grant

Stanley Heller
Modern Times Staff

" Not many Moms are able to come to this vigil, but wait 'til you see all of them coming on the buses and going up to Hartford to tell it to Meskill. It'll be beautiful."

So spoke one Welfare Mom at the now month old camp-in being held on the New Haven Green in protest of the flat grant welfare system. Several of them told of plans for Welfare Moms, disabled and aged welfare recipients supporting community groups and concerned citizens from all over the state to be bussed to Hartford on October 11. There they will demonstrate on the Capitol ground for a more reasonable welfare plan.

"Everybody who joins with us in the rally has to be a registered voter." said another Mom. "We want to show Meskill we're not just begging. We want to show our voting power."

"And we're going to meet with those insurance company executives too," she continued. One of the ideas that the Moms want to get across is that people are being taxed to death because the insurance companies and other Conn. corporations won't pay their "fair share" of taxes, not because of some supposedly luxurious welfare system. "We're going to publish a list of what those companies pay in taxes side by side with a list of their profits. That should open some eyes."

'Nothing To Talk About'?!

The Moms have sent letters to Meskill, Welfare Commissioner White, Assistant Welfare Commissioner Norton and several insurance company executives asking to meet with them on the 11th. So far only White has replied. "He used a lot of big words to tell us the flat grant was fine and there was nothing to talk about," said one Mom. I read White's letter. Part of it said the Mom's "didn't know the verity of the situation". Perhaps they don't know the "verity." They're too busy just trying to find out how to live on those reduced welfare budgets.

The night I went down to the Green the Moms were in high spirits. They were celebrating a surprise birthday party for Del Handy, one of the Moms. While we munched on cake one Mom turned to me and asked, "Have you heard about last Tuesday's confrontation?"

"This group of about 15 Young Republicans came down to tell us they were tired of all their tax dollars being spent on us. They were mostly kids, two were sucking lollipops. But they said they were registered voters. Their leader was named, get this, Grover J. Rees III. President of the Yale Young Republicans. He said, 'I'm tired of you people eating cube steak while I eat hamburger.' (At Yale???) When we told him how little we got and how it was impossible to find jobs he just said, 'Well, I'll have to check that.' We all wanted to take him over our knee and spank him."

Open Line

Flat Grant System Causes Crime

The following is part of a letter sent to Modern Times *by a woman who receives welfare payments.*

I am a mother with one child on the Connecticut Family Assistance New Flat Grant program. I steal to survive.

My allowance for basic necessities was cut over $100 per month the cost of my food stamps raised, my rent raised. I love my baby. My husband deserted me while I was yet a newcomer in this state. I managed before the flat grant, but no more.

It is impossible to provide food, clothing, shelter for the small family the way things are now. I was advised by a state social worker to bear another child to help ease my financial burden. Impossible since I was sterilized at my own request.

I can't steal gas, electricity, and a roof over my head. I can no longer afford the cost of food stamps; so daily I steal small amounts of food. I almost got caught stealing clothing for my child. I put on considerable weight due to a heavy cheap starch diet intake.

I stole over $300 worth of clothing for the winter ahead because it's going to be cold in ghetto housing. I almost got caught and had to alter my appearance. I've even gone so far as to ask for foster placement for my child so it can survive in an atmosphere of decency. I've considered prostitution as a way out.

No Way Out

Some say get a job. Where? Here in New Haven where unemployment is sky high? I see the long lines of workers extending into Chapel Street waiting for their checks. New Haven has virtually no existing day care for those that do obtain a job and most centers won't take welfare day-care payments because they can't afford the six-month wait.

I see in the **Register** the ad about the girl in a cell for shop-lifting for fun. I wonder, did she do it for fun, or to feed and clothe a hungry child at home?

We pay people in this country not to grow crops, we destroy usable produce by pouring kerosene over it.. We export surplus to other nations to feed their hungry, but instead these corrupt governments sell them. We spend billions on a war hardly anyone wants. How many Americans go to bed cold and hungry?

Being on welfare doesn't exempt one from paying the nation's highest sales tax--7%. There is only one way around that. When Meskill built his $22,000 fence, he knew he'd need it as maybe one day the too-far pushed and oppressed in his state might rise against him.

Sorry Mr. Businessman for your losses, but when it comes to you or my child, my child comes first. The flat grant has only been in effect since August. Watch what will happen this winter. Cold weather is coming and many have already lost their gas for heating.

To Survive

Even the Roman emperors knew the poor could only be pushed so far so they gave them circuses, food and gold to prevent riots. Meskill didn't evidently study history and doesn't understand human nature. The United States has had riots over the past several years. Did anyone learn anything from it?

Don't think you can't end up in my shoes. One day a husband with a job, next he has lost the job, then the unemployment runs out, husband leaves home, you're on welfare and your children are in need.

You reach a point where you must do anything to survive and your mother love and will are stronger than anything. Poverty is a horror Americans should not have, but it exists and since I am a part of it I do what I must to exist.

Community Notes

SAVE ON FOOD BUDGET

The New Haven Citizens Action Project has prepared statistics to help shoppers save on food bills. According to Micheal Kane, NHCAP director, "Choosing the right store could save the average shopper as much as $5 for a family that normally spends $50 on its weekly food bill."

Over 100 volunteer surveyors participated in a series of sight surveys since last December and came up with the following ranking of supermarket chain stores:

Name	No. of Stores	(Avg.) Market Basket Total	Percent Over Least Expensive Store
Least Expensive Chains			
Hills- Korvette	1	$44.44	0.0
Shoprite	1	44.71	0.6
Big Buy	2	44.96	1.2
A & P	6	45.10	1.5
Moderately Expensive Chains			
Food Fair	1	45.67	2.9
Finast	1	45.85	3.2
Stop adn Shop	9	46.02	3.6
Foodmart	1	46.19	3.9
Most Expensive Chains			
Grand Union	1	47.10	6.0
Pegnataro's	3	47.12	6.0
IGA	1	47.74	7.4
Atlantic	1	48.44	9.0

CHILDREN'S T-V SYMPOSIUM

Creators of children's t-v treats will visit Yale for a National Symposium on Children's Television on October 15,16 and 17. Its purpose is to "explore the potential for reaching young children through the television meduim." It will cover psychological and technical aspects of programming.

In addition to panel discussions and workshops, the symposium will include filmed and videotaped interviews with children and young people about t-v and how it affects their lives. The first event will be a multi-media presentation of television yesterday and today entitled "What is Children's Television?" It will be held 7:30 p.m. at Davies Auditorium, Becton Laboratories, Yale University, Sunday, October 15.

PROTEST
the Flat Grant System
Hartford Capitol Grounds
OCT. 11
Buses Leaving New Haven Green
10 a.m. Wednesday, the 11TH

For tickets and further information contact the COALITION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, 777-8013, 248-1115, or see a WELFARE MOM on the green.

Another Holiday Inn

Workers Vote For Union At Norwalk

by Frank Annunziato
Modern Times Staff

Local 217 won union recognition with the workers at the Norwalk Holidy Inn in a close 23-21 victory. Four contested votes were not counted in the election supervised by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

The election came after a seven week unfair labor practice strike conducted by Local 217 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union. The strike was precipitated when management illegally fired four workers, Gladys Vann, Shirley Sead, Jean Clyburn, and Robert Frye, for union activities. Other workers at the Holiday Inn, largely from the housekeeping department, then voted to go on strike in support of the four who were fired.

The Norwalk Holiday Inn is one of the largest in Connecticut. There are almost 290 rooms and last year the Inn grossed 2 million dollars. Nationally, Holiday Inn is the largest and most anti-union outfit in the motel industry. Their after taxes earnings last year were 42 million. The chairman of the board, Charles Kemmons Wilson, is personally worth 100 million.

Of the more than 1400 Holiday Inns in the U.S., only 80 are unionized or less that 6%. The victory at Norwalk marks the first time a Holiday Inn has been organized in Conn. and it is only the second one in all New England.

The election victory culminated an uphill fight for Local 217. At the peak of the strike, there were 14 people actively picketing-four of whom had been fired. Management hired 16 strikebreakers who, according to the NLRB, were all eligible to vote.

In preparation for the election, the size of the bargaining unit was set at 50-including front desk people who had never shown any interest in the union. Consequently, in four weeks the union had to pick up 13 votes - a difficult problem in ordinary circumstances, doubly difficult with 16 strike breakers and a half a dozen or so uninterested front desk people.

However, many of the people hired during the strike were Puerto Rican and South American Spanish speaking people. These people were visited in their homes by two Spanish speaking members of Local 217, Ricardo Giraldo and Ivan Torres, along with John W. Wilhelm, secretary-treasurer of Local 217, and Frank Annunziato, Business Agent.

These home visits revealed great dissatisfaction with working conditions at the Holiday Inn and support for the union. People had to be reassured that the election would be a secret vote to counteract the fear campaign waged by the company.

Now that the election has been won, Local 217 must begin the hard job of negotiating a just contract for the Holiday Inn workers as well as getting the four people who were fired back to work.

McGovern Aides Go Door-to-Door Up Until Election

Continued from page 1

Stan Greenberg, organizer of the McGovern canvassing drive in New Haven. (Photo courtesy of the McGovern Office.)

October. We're starting out in the low registration areas and in the areas of possible Democratic defection, but we intent to get everywhere.

"How would you sum up the results so far."

I think that we are getting people to think positively about McGovern. and to think about change rather than inertia. People have been taught, for four years, that they can't do anything about the war, jobs, inflation and health care. Our canvassers are talking to people about change and I think we are having an impact.

"I think it's time we got some new math books. Listen to this—'If a man spends 16¢ for a loaf of bread and 12¢ for a bottle of milk and 25¢ for a dozen eggs, what is his total bill?'"

BRIDGEPORT JOBLESS FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

by Stan Heller
Modern Times Staff

Bridgeport workers have organized a committee to fight a deliberate attempt to force unemployed workers to stop collecting their unemployment insurance checks.

For the past month the group, called the "Unemployed Workers Committee" has been leafleting workers at the Bridgeport unemployment office, telling them their rights and investigating complaints. They have received many responses and claim that abuses are widespread.

The committee makes three serious complaints against current practices of the State Employment Office. They claim workers are forced to spend unreasonably large amounts of time looking for jobs, are unfairly forced to take jobs which pay much less than the ones they've recently had, and are faced with a long frustrating and sometimes humiliating appeals process.

The committee says the policy that the unemployed must make "sufficient efforts to find a job" is vague and often interpreted arbitrarily. "Workers are sometimes required to go to as many as four different shops a day asking after non-existent jobs."

Sometimes workers are disqualified for merely following union rules and refusing to apply to non-union shops. It doesn't seem to matter to the state that in doing so a worker may lose all union rights and benefits.

Forced Pay Cuts

Other protests over unreasonable disqualifications center on the "suitable job" issue. Until six or seven months ago the committee claims a worker was *not forced to take a job that was considerably lower paying or with far fewer benefits than ones he or she had recently worked.*

It was felt that someone who had gradually got higher and higher pay and benefits shouldn't have to "go through the mill again." Now the group claims workers are being forced to take over 25% pay cuts and large slashes in benefits. The exact amount of the cuts often depends on the whim of the Employment Office personnel. In some cases the Employment Office has sent people to jobs paying 50% less than they had been used to earning.

The Unemployed Workers Committee has been urging workers to appeal these and other kinds of unfair disqualifications. In doing so they discovered a new area of abuse, the appeals process itself. The group says there is a six week to three month backlog of cases. And all that time unemployment checks are withheld.

The group says these delays are unjustly cruel for people out of work with little cash in reserve. In addition the group claims that Employment Office personnel have frequently been insulting to workers making an appeal and have tried to scare or fool workers into dropping their appeals.

Political Motives

Why is this all going on? The Unemployed Workers Committee says it is part of a deliberate attack on workers "as part of the Nixon-Meskill plan to be reelected. The plan is to gain votes by showing a decrease in the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is based on the number of people collecting unemployment checks. Therefore, by forcing workers to give up their checks, take low paying jobs, or go on "welfare", they would show a decrease in unemployment."

In a related development, the Bridgeport Legal Services Agency has decided to sue the State Employment Office to try to force the state to drastically shorten delays during appeals and to continue benefits during the appeals process. The suit will be heard October 2, 10 AM at the Federal District Court on Church Street in New Haven.

Board Of Education Still Won't Negotiate With N.H. Teachers

New Haven teachers continue to work without a contract, as the negotiations crisis between the New Haven Federation of Teachers and the Board of Education enters its seventh month. Union President Ron O'Brian accussed Mayor Guida of "remaining studiously silent" in the face of these long fruitless negotiations.

Despite an atmosphere of calm on the surface, a crisis looms. O'Brian is in almost daily communication with the teachers. He reports that the Board refuses to change its position on three key issues. He says they are insisting on "no improvement in benefits, more work for less pay and no improvements in the educational process."

In a blunt assessment of the present situation, O'Brian states, "The teachers of New Haven are right now at the crossroads. We can pull together as proud human beings and turn back this threat to our survival or we can act like whipped dogs and take it--and take it we will because this is only the beginning. Alluding to the possibility of a strike, the union president asks that all teachers "stick together" in order to prevent "throwing away what others have worked so long and so hard to win."

Editorial

Congratulations!

The Editors of **Modern Times** wish to congratulate the leaders and new members of Local 217 (Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union) on the recent unionization vote at the Holiday Inn in Norwalk. Although the addition of the new 50 member shop may seem a small victory at first glance, its significance should not be overlooked.

At a time when prices are high and jobs hard to find, 20 workers walked out and put their jobs and futures on the line in support of fellow workers. With no guarantee of success they braved sweltering summer heat, harassment by management, police, and often customers of the motel, in order to fight for the right to organize a union. Union leaders Wilhelm and Annunziato worked 10-18 hour shifts for a large part of the seven week strike, and their untiring encouragement and support were essential to the drive.

All working people and union members can take heart from this example. A branch of the giant Holiday Inn system was brought to its knees by the solidarity of 20-odd people. Very often working people say 'things are tough, but what can you do about it?' These motel workers have provided one good answer.

Volume III Number 10
Circulation 4,000

MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editor.

MODERN TIMES

Subscriptions:
148 Orange St.,
New Haven
Editorial Offices:
441 Chapel St.,
New Haven
562-2510

MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, George Andrews, Harry Andrews, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Tony Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Beverly Gouaux, Stanley Heller Liz Henderson, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Karl Lechow, Art Mazer, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Jim Jordan Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florie Ricciuti, Dick Wieland, Ed Breuler Henry Tamarin, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff.

EAST SIDE ROUND UP

A Return Of The Glove And The Start Of A Clinic

by Frank R. Annuziato
Modern Times Staff

Boxing returns to Fair Haven! Years ago, in the 30's and 40's, Fair Haven was one of the boxing capitals of Connecticut. Over the years, and especially after boxing was declared illegal, the sport has lost its once high image among young people. Now, however, for reasons that aren't so clear, it's making a big come-back among the community's kids.

Several months ago, a joint program was started by Project Enough, Inc., and the Italian-American Civil Rights League. Twice a week, at the Atwater Rec., old time boxers and trainers get together with interested teens and set up what looks almost like a boxing gym of the old days. The names of the boxers and trainers will be familiar to boxing fans in New Haven; they include trainer Bob Mele (he handled Johnny and Eddy Compo), and the two boxing Gillo brothers, Mike and Tony.

Packed Program

The program is opened to teenagers at least 14 years old. So far, each night, there are somewhere in the neighborhood of 35 -40 kids. In order to participate in the classes, each kid is required to have a complete physical examination - given free, naturally, at the Fair Haven Community Health Clinic. More than just boxing is involved in these classes - the trainers and boxers stress all areas of physical fitness and health care. The word is that many of the kids have given up smoking as a direct result of participating in the program. (More of us should get involved!)

Andy Calandrelli, a staff worker for Project Enough Inc., and one of the organizers of the boxing program, tells me that there is a lot of talent there.

He particularly brags about one 17 year old light heavyweight named Dave Marr, who Andy thinks can really make it, with a lot of work and a couple of breaks. With boxing matches becoming legal again in Connecticut, next year, maybe Fair Haven will once more produce some big names in the ring.

Ottis Gambrell works out with instructor. (MT photo by Rusty Foster)

A Free Clinic!

One of the areas of most neglect in Fair Haven is adequate health care. In a community of over twenty thousand, there are only 2 resident physicians.

For years, people have tried to tackle this problem through various forms of community health clinics. Finally, it seems there's a plan that is working: the Fair Haven Community Clinic.

This clinic is opened two nights per week, Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Christopher Columbus School. It is staffed by a team of top notch volunteer doctors and nurses. The clinic is run by a Board of Directors comprised of members from the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation, the Juna, doctors, nurses and patients at the clinic.

From the summer on, the activities of the clinic have been coordinated by an energetic Yale student, Rich Weingarten. Most of the time when Yalies try to do something in any of the communities in New Haven, a major disaster happens. This is not the case with Rich. Unlike his Yale counterparts, Rich is long on action and short on talk. He has carried the ball a great deal for this clinic and people are deeply grateful for what he's done.

Currently, the Clinic, which regularly provides service for 50-75 people a night, is looking for its own facility and more volunteer medical workers. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Rich at 777-3704, at 388 Grand Ave.

More on the Fair Haven Clinic next issue.

Brass Tacks

Labor- How Much Unity Ahead?

To Modern Times:

I read Joe Tinker's article about the splitting of the labor movement. It's OK but there's some problem in it. Sure the AFL-CIO was stupid not to endorse McGovern. And it's true that under the old unity of the past years, there was plenty of fighting and arguing.

But a divided house cannot stand. And American labor will have to stand against what another four years of Nixon would mean.

It would be nice if the rank an file was so interested in the election that it got active in the unions. But I don't see it, do you?

What I am afraid I see is possible bad trouble ahead. Let the unions argue *inside* a united federation. We need a united face to the outside.

Frank Carlson
New Haven

Joe Tinker replies:

I agree with Brother Carlson that a united labor movement is preferable to a divided one. But this should not blind us to the fact that the AFL-CIO has not enjoyed real unity for some time.

The 'false unity' we have seen for the past 15 years has to a large extent resulted in the current weakened position of of labor nationally. Differences of opinion should not bring about a formal split in the AFL-CIO. On the contrary, open discussion will tend to strengthen the labor movement when they are conducted on a friendly, democratic basis.

But if George Meany can take over State Federations, then the blame for any split in the AFL-CIO will be his doing.

Joe Tinker

Politicians Avoid Profit Control

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

This is the third of three articles on economic issues in the Presidential campaign.

Nixon has failed to stop rising prices or unemployment or the deteriorating international economic problems of the U.S. So he says little about economics. He's got nothing much to point to. McGovern attacks Nixon's failure to fix up the economy. McGovern hints that he won't be a "businessman's President like Nixon." He promises to shift taxes from working people to the large corporations and put jobs within everyone's reach.

Yet, as we saw in the last article of this series, McGovern has not yet come up with a full program to solve our economic problems. Since it would be a big plus for him against Nixon, why does he hold back?

Politicians Don't Dare

To put the answer in a nutshell: our economic problems are so serious that their solution calls for steps which big business, the rich and the conservatives refuse to consider.

No major politician, including McGovern, will yet dare to call for such steps for fear of losing the contributions and support of those groups. McGovern's hints that he supports only a few of these steps (like real tax reform) has him branded as a "wild-eyed radical." No wonder he holds back.

The Problem is Profits

What are these steps? The heart of the problem is profits and the 500 largest U.S. corporations who control the lion's share of profits in the U.S. Corporations (like GM and Ford) make the decisions to raise prices to make more profits. Others (like G&O Radiator) decide whether to use their profits to hire more people or whether their profits would be better served by laying off workers. Many corporations decide to use profits to hire expert tax accountants to get out of paying their tax share. Some (like the insurance giants) use profits to influence lawmakers to pass laws which will enable them to make more profits. Most (like Yale and the Yale-New Haven Hospital) use profits to hire lawyers to fight unions and the effort of workers to improve wages and working conditions.

The way corporations make and use their profits determines the shape of our economy and our economic problems. No plan to solve those problems can ever succeed if it does not take control of those profits and use them in very different ways from what the corporations want.

Millions of Americans want work. They are needed to supply us all with better houses, schools, hospitals, recreation facilities. Why aren't those people working? "Because," says the stiff corporation executive, "there's no profit in it." Instead of investing in America's great needs, the corporations pour billions into factories abroad. The result is more profits for them, still fewer jobs at home.

The other examples we could show all have the same point: *either all of us in this economy serve profits or else we must make profits serve our economy. That is the choice.*

The Steps We Need

We might start with steps like the following. Tax corporate profits heavily. Use the new taxes to put Americans to work. Use them to ease workingpeople's tax bills. Add a strict control over how the corporations may be allowed to use whatever part of their profits they are still allowed to keep. And if corporations try to resist, be prepared to turn over the ownership and control of the corporations to public bodies of elected people who will run them in line with these changes.

These steps could solve the basic problems of unemployment, inflation, and tax injustice. But until large numbers of Americans come to demand them loudly, politicians will not dare to tell it like it is or do what must eventually be done.

Our economic problems do not stand still. They continue to get worse. The longer basic changes are put off, the harder they will be. The few who profit from keeping things as they are try to keep the lid on. Sooner or later, the rest of us will have to act.

"Neighborhood Advocates"

The Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation (FHNC) "graduates" four "neighborhood Advocates". The program formulated by Albert Shanchey and Mike Sheldon, lasted from August 28 thru September 22 and is designed to bring para legal aid into a community with no other legal aid program. Carlene Williams, director FHNC, Steve Darley, assistant director and Frank Annunziato, president, were also present. Receiving diplomas were Annie Bell Austin, Mary Smith, Harriet Tubbs, and Maria Melendez. (MT photo by Nick Heyer)

Fair Haven Church Expands Big Brother Program

by Harriet Fraad
Modern Times Staff

The Big Brother Program is a program providing a one to one, father-son relationship for fatherless boys from 7 to 13 years old. The East Pearl Methodist Church sponsored the program after discovering that no other program fills that need. This year the church is expanding their program and looking for more Big Brothers.

The following is an interview with Lester Williams, "Big Brother", with the enthusiastic participation of wife Elaine and daughter Carol-Ann, who share Lester's Big Brother role.

Q. What is a Big Brother?
A. A man who spends time with a boy who has no father.
Q. How do you and the boy get together?
A. A man volunteers and is interviewed by our social worker who matches you up with your "Little Brother." You then begin meeting on your own.

Big Brother Lester Williams chats briefly with Tichard and Ms. Avery at Richard's house. (M-T photo by Nick Heyer)

Many Good Times

Q. What kinds of things do you do?
A. Everything you can think of. We go fishing, to ball games, swimming, bowling, skidooing. We had four "Little Brothers" camping in our backyard they slept out for two nights.

Lester picks up his "Little Brother" on Saturdays. Sometimes he helps around the house. We have a special bedroom for him. He picked out his own colors and everything. People say they don't have time. We got interested and shifted around and found time. He's a terrific little boy.

"I'll tell you, the first time I took the little fella out, it was hard. The third time I brought the boy home and introduced him to my daughter, Carol-Ann. That did it. And now Carol-Ann has a new brother. Sometimes we all do things together. We went to Riverside, cooked supper in a cook out. We picked pears. People should just try it. People ask, 'How can you afford this?' All that's required is four hours a week with a boy. Just time, not money. Sometimes I just spend a dollar.

Both Benefit

Q. Has being a Big Brother changed you in any way?
A. Well he benefits and I benefit too. It's a fifty-fifty deal there. Once in a while he calls me "dad". Makes you feel a real accomplishment. This week is Richie's birthday. We're going out for Pizza and have a surprise party.
Q. How can people participate in your program?
A. You could be a Big Brother. You could find and refer Little Brothers to the program. Serve on our Board of Directors or contribute money. All contributions are tax deductable.

ed. note: This sounds like a fine program. Perhaps fatherless girls could be included. They need a "Big Brother" too.

Richard Avery's belated birthday party is celebrated with his Big Brother's Family -- Lester, Elaine, and Carol Ann Williams -- plus his own older brother Gilbert.
(M-T photo by Nick Heyer)

Residents Said No! City Says Go!

Remember when...? New Haveners stopping by and shopping at what used to be the city's most popular fruit stands, corner of Chapel and State Sts. (MT photo by David Dickson)

by Liz Henderson
Modern Times Staff

Wreckers will soon get to work destroying the last few buildings on the east side of State Street. Why is State Street biting the dust? What are the plans for rebuilding it?

In the place of the old State Street the city plans to build a six-lane highway, separated by a half-mile long, six-story parking garage for over 4000 cars. One whole side of State Street is being knocked down. The rest of it will be almost completely rebuilt to look like a suburban shopping center.

Here is a review of the history of State Street renewal, of how the city decided to rebuild it and of the long struggle by area residents to stop or change the city's plans.

WHO DECIDED? According to a former high-ranking city official, this is what happened: "In 1963, John McGuerty, a designer working for the City Plan Department, developed the idea of building a six-lane highway down State Street. Then, in early 1964, the plan was committed by an administrative action without the knowledge of the public or of the City Plan Commission that there was even an issue."

PETITION SAVES GROCERY: Demolition of State Street began in 1967. In the fall of 1967, a life-long resident of Wooster Square had the idea of starting a petition to ask for at least a guarantee that the grocery needs of the area be considered. Many people in Wooster Square feared that they would be deprived of convenient shopping during the inevitable long delay between the closing of old stores and the completion of city plans. A Committee to Save Our Stores was formed and within three weeks over 500 names were collected The city gave in and the Mohawk Meat Market and the Coop were saved.

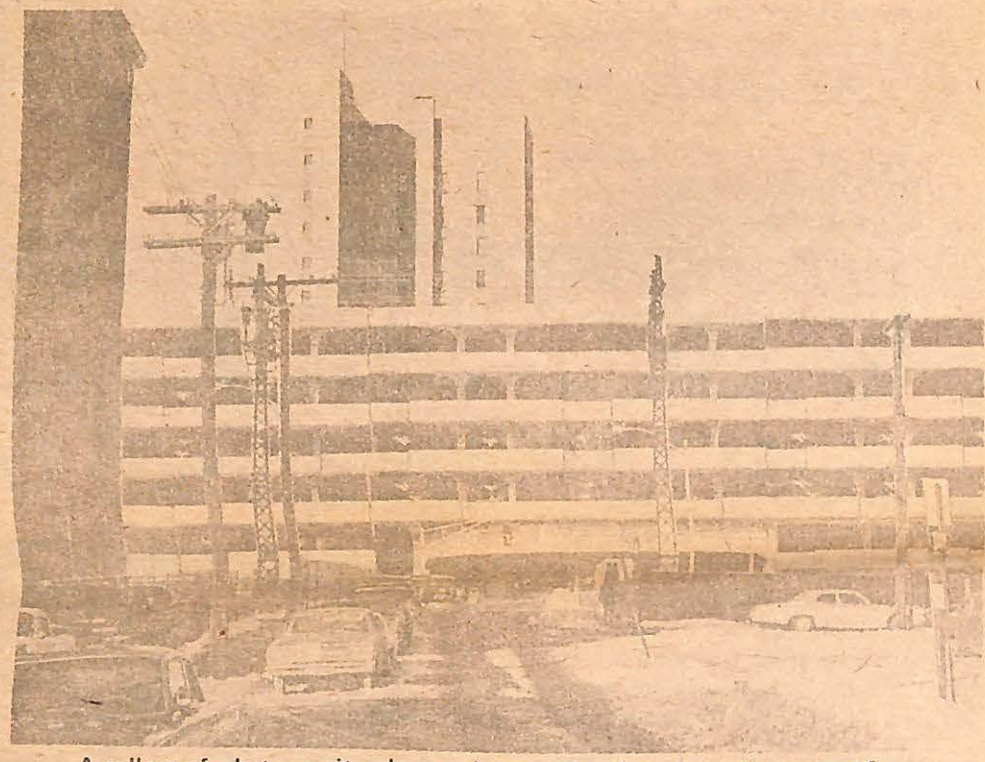
2 x 3 = 6: "There are some misconceptions about the State Street project," began Charles Shannon, Director of the Redevelopment Agency, speaking at a meeting of the Wooster Square Association on November 30, 1967. "To begin with, this won't be a six-lane highway, but two three-lane roads." That statement was typical of the way city officials treated the public during the many hearings over State Street.

1000 SAY NO, BUT ALDERMEN VOTE YES: On April 11, 1968 the Board of Aldermen voted 14 to 13 in favor of the Redevelopment Agency's State Street Plan. Before the vote, opponents of the plan picketed city hall, telephoned aldermen; 1000 Wooster Square residents signed petitions and 400 attended the public hearings. The vote was very disappointing but opponents of the plan had one victory.

The aldermen, by a count of 18 to 9, voted to limit what one protester called, "the Chinese Wall" -- the half-mile, 6 story parking garage -- to 2 blocks instead of 8. Only between George and Chapel Streets did they agree to allow an above-ground garage.

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY WINS: A year and a half after the aldermen voted the garage down, the Redevelopment Agency pushed it through anyway despite continuing opposition. The Agency never scrapped its plan for the huge garage and here is why.

After midnight at a hearing on Thanksgiving Eve, 1969 the reasons came out. The city had promised the New Haven Savings Bank that it would provide *adequate parking* for the Bank's new office building on Church Street. No garage, no new bank. Big Business, not city residents, wants the new State Street.



A collage of what our city planners have in store for us- another garage for business. (MT collage by David Dickson)

Triestino's: Redevelopment Closes It Down

by Henry Tamarin
Modern Times Staff

The big furor over New Haven redevelopment has, unfortunately, died away. Every week there are fewer buildings and more parking lots.

The big rats of the agency have long since deserted a sinking ship and moved off to greener pastures (that's the long green) in New York and California. The rest of the employees have been hanging onto their jobs or picking their way across empty lots to the unemployment office.

For all of us who have done the "redevelopment shuffle" around town, there are still more who have to take that painful step of dislocating their homes, businesses and lives. Last week we spoke with a man who has been an important member of the community for those of us in the vicinity of State St. and Wooster Square.

He is Mr. Benjamin Waltuch, owner of Triestino's Liquor Store on the corner of State and Court Streets. Friday marks the end of 40 years in business on State Street for Mr. Waltuch. Redevelopment is closing him down.

He came from Vienna to the United States, stopping off in New Orleans and Brooklyn before settling in New Haven. He met an Italian from Triest and together they opened Triestino's Olive Co., an Italian food importing firm. Shortly thereafter prohibition ended and they shifted their business to liquor.

Fifty Miles to State

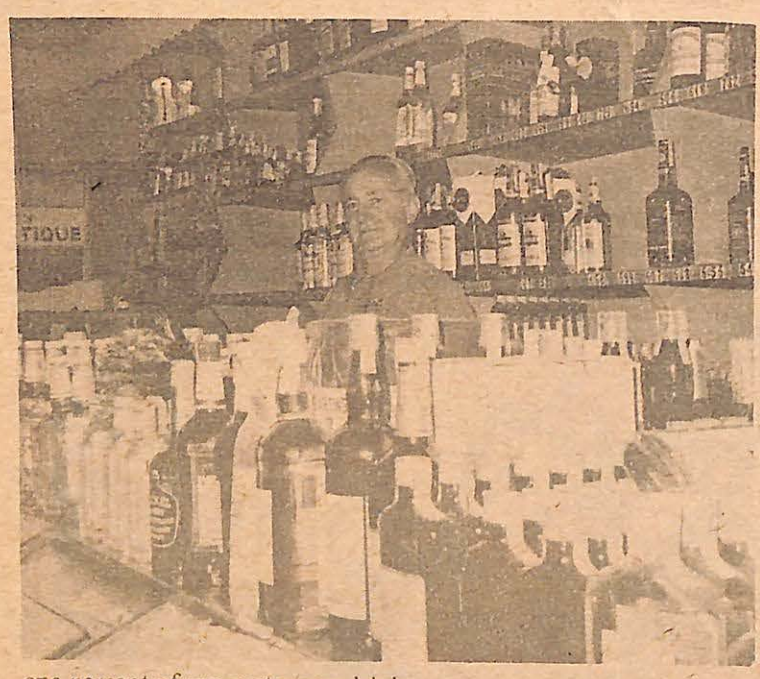
"In 1932 on State Street the sidewalks were so crowded that people had to walk on the streets," said Mr. Waltuch. "We used to be the main food shopping street for New Haven and the whole area in those days.

"It wasn't unusual for people to come to State St. from 50 miles away to buy their food. Of course one big factor was that people didn't have freezers and had to buy their perishable food on a daily basis.

"When we went into our liquor business things were different than they are today. There used to be three men's hotels on this block and much of our business came from them and off the street.

"People's drinking habits were different too. Our malt liquor business used to be more than 90% ale drinkers and only a few beer drinkers. The valley used to have four or five breweries making ale and there used to be a couple in town.

"Hull's had a very famous ale at that time. To the south, in New York, the market was all beer. To the north, in the rest of New England, it was all ale. Slowly the New York market pushed north and I would say that now only one percent of my customers drink ale. Hull's is the only area brewery still left, and they are big distributors for national brands.



Ken Waltuch stands in front of spirits slotted for return to distributors. (MT photo by Nick Heyer)

Redevelopment Closes Store

"Even though the neighborhood changed, the amount of business I did always stayed the same pretty much. I met many fine families here. There are some that have been my customers for three generations.

"When redevelopment came nobody liked it even in the beginning. They bought this building two and a half years ago but I managed to hang on. Now I have to close. If I didn't they would get a court order like they did for the Central Army & Navy Store down the street.

"What can I do? I'm 70 years old. They used to tell me that I could move back into the stores in the bottom of the parking garage when they finished building it. Now they don't even offer me that. For now they offer me nothing.

"Perhaps if I was younger I could wait 5 or 10 yrs. but not at my age. Look, there are lots that have been empty for years. I am going into forced retirement. They are saving me the choice of whether to keep working or not. Now I have no plans, I don't know what I'll do once the store is taken care of, but I guess all things come to an end."

For many folks the end of Triestino's is the end of an era.

The Clearwater - What Is The UI Co. Fishing For?

An Open Letter to the People of New Haven:

As a native of New Haven, I'm proud to have the Hudson River sloop Clearwater visit and be a powerful educational experience for the children that will be a part of its environmental program.

But it is for these same children and all people that I am, too, very disturbed. According to public information one sponsor of the Clearwater is the United Illuminating Co., the worst polluter of our environment and seemingly beyond anyone's power to confront.

For it is this same public utility which plans to construct enormous high tension towers through residential areas of the city and over the harbor to connect its East Shore substation to the Grand Avenue plant.

It is this same public utility which is the largest single pollution source in the city; which dumps tons of airborne pollutants on the residents of Fair Haven, degrading Fair Haven as a place to live, totally without regard for the real issues of health and welfare of those children. And it is this same public utility which adds its own special blend of ooze to the deadly Mill River.

(MT photo by Nick Heyer)

School children help hoist the sail in preparation for the Clearwater trip around the Sound. The ship is docked in City Point and will be there until friday the 13.

For several years residents of Fair Haven, Fair Haven Betterment Assn., Redevelopment Agency and the city itself, have battled with this privately owned, profit-making public utility and have ultimately filed suit against U.I. to stop such development so obviously in disregard for our health and safety.

The Clearwater stands as an active principle of people's faith in their own power and strength to work together to save our earth. Their vision is astounding and I commend their work and spirit of necessity. What business does the U.I. have in being any part of this? I cannot reconcile their participation in this program. I'm certain that citizens of New Haven would rather contribute for the expense of that week, than allow themselves to be deceived: at the greater expense of the truth of their and their children's future.

Sincerely,

Theodore Perch

Women vs. Connecticut Wins by Overturning Abortion Law

by Laurie Nussdorfer
Modern Times Staff

Connecticut Doctors can now perform abortions.

Connecticut's new abortion law was declared unconstitutional September 20 by the same three-judge panel which ruled the old law unconstitutional last April.

The law, drafted by the General Assembly in May, was challenged by Women vs. Connecticut, a group representing over a thousand Connecticut women. Their lawyers argued that the new law was the same in intent as the old law and that their earlier arguments still held.

The judges split 2 to 1 as they had in April. Along with the decision they handed down an injunction against prosecution under the old law. This leaves Connecticut without an abortion law because Sumpreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall has just denied an appeal against the injunction which was being sought by the State's Attorney.

The decision itself will be appealed by the state to the full court, but probably will not be acted on until next spring.

Great Decision

Judy Robison of Women vs. Connecticut said, "It's a great decision. It's very strong and states very clearly that the rights of women supersede the rights of the fetus. This decision does open the way for the legislature to restrict abortion in three areas - the length of pregnancy in which abortion can take place, and where and by whom abortions can be performed."

Several new abortion bills have been introduced in the state legislature, although they are not expected to be passed at this session. One would allow abortion on demand until the 28th week of pregnancy; another calls for abortion on demand until the 14th week, abortion with the written permission of two doctors from 14 to 24 weeks, and abortion after 24 weeks only in emergency cases.

According to Ms. Robison the only thing stopping Connecticut's doctors from performing abortions is that they are just very conservative."

A "Personal" Judgement

The judges decision noted the "sincerity" of those who oppose abortion but called this a personal judgement, one which the state can not regulate. Ms. Robison said, "It's very clear in saying that women should decide whether or not to continue pregnancy and that the State has no interest (a legal term) in protecting the rights of the fetus until viability - that is until the fetus can survive by itself, usually considered to be after 28 weeks."

Bus Take-Over How Soon?

Continued from page 1

fund for direct subsidy to the bus lines to Meskill's three million.

No Solution

Even though Meskill vetoed the bill, it was no solution. According to John Thomson, business agent for Local 281 of the ATU in New Haven, such a subsidy is "pure pork barrel for Gengras--a guaranteed profit." Subsidizing the privately owned bus lines is not so they can operate, but so the owners can make a profit.

In addition, when contract time comes again, the state will have to come up with another package of money for Gengras. **The state might as well pay bus drivers and mechanics directly!**

Thomson pointed out that there is no real need for the special legislative session. There is already a state law which allows the Transportation Commissioner to set up regional transit districts and take over the bus lines.

Thomson said that he hopes for a day when a Connecticut resident can get on a bus for free. We don't pay for police or fire protection nor do we expect to make a profit from them. Thomson continued by saying that public transportation should be a real public service.

The ATU considers the Connecticut Company offer for a 48 cents per hour wage reduction as unacceptable. Any work stoppage resulting from that company position will be considered a lockout.

Besides protecting the interests of Connecticut bus drivers, the ATU has offered the only reasonable solution. The Governor just wants to pass the problem on to the cities and the Democratic General Assembly wants to give profits to Gengras for another year with huge subsidies. It is obvious that the state will have to take over the buslines eventually...the only question is when?

PERISCOPE
On The Environment

by Tony Dominski
Modern Times Staff

NEEDED: MORE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

One of the reasons our city is a tiring, nerve racking place is the scarcity of neighborhood parks. While it is true that we have some beautiful big parks like Edgewood, West River, East Rock and West Rock these are not accessible on a day to day basis for most people. Little neighborhood or "pocket parks" provide a relaxed place for people to talk, a place for kids to play, a place to exercise or rest, a place to picnic to sing, or read everyday. There are many places in the city with vacant lots (i.e. like the proposed Route 34) or with old buildings which could be made into parks. Accessible parks are not a luxury but a right and necessity for city residents.

GOOD NEWS ON BODY RADIATION

Tests conducted by Brookhaven National Laboratory in Long Island have indicated that levels of radioactive chemicals in human bodies have dropped since 1963 when the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union agreed to stop atmospheric testing of nuclear bombs. This is one beautiful example of nations assumming worldwide responsibility for the environment.

THE MONEY IS IN AUTO POLLUTION CONTROL

The New York brokerage firm Paine, Weber, Jackson and Curtis issued a report predicting that auto pollution control will be a very profitable business. The report discounts that the internal combustion engine will be scrapped and indicates that the resources will be going into improvements of the present engines. Such improvements may include afterburners, catylitic convertors and production on non-leaded gasoline. This is bad news for environmentalists since the same resources might be better spent on developing an inherently less polluting power system or on mass transit systems.

CHCP Celebrates 1st Anniversary

The Community Health Care Plan, located at 150 Sargent Drive, completed its first year of providing good medical care at reasonable rates to members of unions and community groups this October 1. (photo courtesy of the CHCP)

On The Job

Training Is No Job Guarantee

We usually call this column "On the Job," but for 11.8% of the white people and for twice that percentage of Black and Puerto Rican people in New Haven, there are no jobs. So this week we interviewed a young Italian man who has been in the United States for two years. For the past six months he has been unemployed and looking for work.

My last job was as a pantry man in a restaurant. For a year I was in a training program to become a cook. A pantryman makes some dishes like salad and especially sandwiches. Not the main dish.

For the training program you were supposed to learn in many different restaurants. First I worked in a country club and then in a grill in West Haven. For the last period, which was very short I worked for the telephone company in their cafeteria. I quit the job because I found that I was being exploited.

At the beginning of the training program I was told I would start with a minimum wage and after three and six months I would receive raises. Instead, for the whole year I was in the program I got $2.25 an hour. That was the same salary I made as a dishwasher before I entered the program.

Before I quit I asked for more money. What happened was that from the grill I was moved to the cafeteria There I was like third chef. I began to prepare not just simple dishes but food like soup and main courses. I had the same job as the chef, on the same level. *The salary I received was $85 a week. I made less money than at the grill. Instead of getting better, I was falling behind.*

So I decided to quit the training program. And then the trouble began. I haven't been able to find a job since.

Search for New Start

When I quit I went to the State Employment Office and I asked for a job. Every time I went there they told me, "We don't have a job for you. Try again." This has been going on for more than six months. At first I looked for specific kinds of jobs. I wanted to try something different from cooking.

In Italy I was a clerk-teller in a bank for 15 years. When I came here I had to decide what to do. I did not want to work in a bank and besides my English was too poor. The first job I found was as a dishwasher. In Italy the unemployment situation is even worse. That's why I kept my job as a bank teller for 15 years although I did not like it. I did not want to get stuck again when I came to this country.

Chapel Street Employment Center where people apply for jobs time and time again. (MT photo by Vittorio Commisso)

But when I realized it was so hard to find a job, I started to look for any kind of job. And even so it was impossible to find one. I found a listing for a job as clean-up man and I went for an interview. I was not the person they were looking for.

I was in another place in a poultry factory. The same thing. Especially when they saw my hand. I am handicapped. I could have done the work without difficulty. I worked for a year in restaurants and it was not a problem.

Interviews and Applications

I then tried to look around for myself outside the employment office, especially at Yale. Every place you go you have to fill out an application. The man who interviews you wants to know everything about you. What I did before and in Italy. Who my wife is, what she is doing. You treat them like a friend, because you want to speak sincerely and make a nice impression. And after this stupid dialogue, they say, "Well, we don't have anything open. We'll call you up when we have something."

At Yale-New Haven Hospital I filled in an application and the man in the personnel office gave me some hope. He said, "I think we will need a cook in the hospital. Come back in a few weeks." So I came back in two weeks and first of all the man did not remember me and then they could not find my application from two weeks before. You feel like it would be the same thing if they played a record to you. *They just make a joke out of you.* Or maybe it's because so many people are looking for a job.

If you turn on the TV, you get the impression that there are many training programs and that you just have to want to get training. I found some of these programs listed at the Employment Office and I looked into them. The man I spoke with said that I could try but with the grade of education I have they would throw me out after a short while. I do not have a high school diploma.

The feeling of the person who is looking for a job is very bad. You feel very depressed all the time. The more you look, the more depressed you become. They give you this feeling at the employment office. When you ask for a job the man at the table flips through the book and says, "We don't have much. It's a very bad period."

Every two weeks you have to go to the unemployment compensation office and they give you another feeling. They make you feel guilty because you can't find a job. You have to tell the woman, "Did you look for a job?" "Yes." "Where did you fill out applications? We have to check up on you."

I realize there is nothing wrong with me, but when I am looking for a job and I find myself in front of personnel officers, they make me feel as though there is something wrong. They don't have anything to lose. But I feel that I depend on them and their decision. In this situation, I am not the same person. Whether I'm smart or not smart, I don't have a chance. *I just know that I need a job, and they can give it to me or not.*

Memorial Gathering
in Honor of
Harry Henderson

Auditorium — 4:00 PM
St. Paul's Church — Saturday
620 Chapel St.
New Haven, Conn. — October 7, 1972

Statements, poems, drawings, pictures for inclusion in a memory book may be sent, preferably in advance of the gathering, c/o Modern Times, *441 Chapel St., New Haven. A communal dinner will follow the gathering.*

Waiting at the Station

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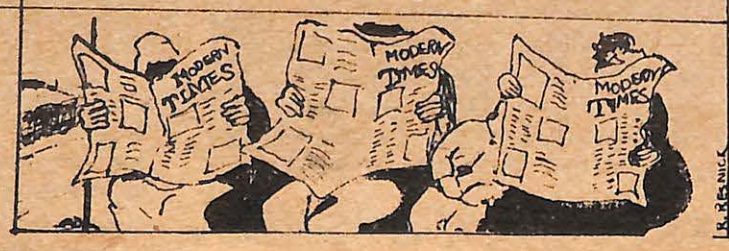

DAYCARE OPENINGS FOR CHILDREN 1½--3½ yrs. old in our licenced co-op daycare at Whitney Ave. and Cold Spring Sts. We have room for several children in the afternoon session. The parents staff the center with a paid co-ordinator. If you're interested call Dan or Ellen Regan, 787-5088, Sally Endlemann, 776-3456, or Mina Duncan, 865-8396.

TOGETHER WITH STAX
a benefit concert for the APT foundation.

October 24, 1972 8:00 p.m.
New Haven Veterans Memorial Coliseum
PARTICIPANTS: Mel and Tim, Temprees, Little Milton, Rance Allen Gospel Rock Group, Eric Murcury and Frederick Knight
TICKET PRICES: $10.00; $6.50; $5.00;
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